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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

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THE WAY TO SAFETY.

Honolulu, January 3, 1906.

Editor Advertiser: I have been reading in your paper the Open Letters of Reverends Restarick and Beissel and I see they have not come to the same conclusion as to which is the true church. Now it has been one among others of my good intentions for this bright new year to so live and regulate my life by some system of conduct to fit my soul for that great reward, the desire of ages, the destiny of man, the prize of all prizes, the kingdom of heaven (but which would seem according to their ideas that the only way to do so would be to join one or other of these churches).

To show you how earnest has been my desire I have put this motto at the head of the list of my good intentions "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" I would like to find the true way, the right way and the best way to get this great wish of my heart, and would you like to help point it out to me?

One may be right and the other wrong, they may both be wrong, they may both be right; if so, then I would like your advice as to which path is the short cut.

Thanking you in advance for the space allotted to this article in your valuable column, and while I am waiting anxiously for your advice I will try and keep my soul and body together.

A POOR SOUL IN DOUBT.

If you believe in God—and everybody but the fool so believes—and if you try to keep on His side in all the affairs of life, do you not think it safe, when you come to die, to leave the rest to Him? If you do not think so, who else is there that suggests more power or opportunity or grace? Certainly no finite being, like ourselves, whether he wears a triple crown or a black coat or carries a scepter or a prayerbook or claims to be the only representative of God on earth or but one of his disciples. All these dignitaries are mortal and fallible as we are; we must cling, if we want safety, to that which is immortal and infallible.

Do not believe, that when you pass beyond these voices, any one is likely to challenge your spiritual path with questions about the particular church or sect or doctrine or dogma that concerned your mortal part. You and all of us are here in the midst of great enigmas and with minds that can not solve them. We may be easily misled in our acceptances or beliefs and, according to the warring churchmen, great numbers of us are. But if so it is not our fault; and if there is justice and righteousness in the order of the universe we shall not be held to account for our failures to guess aright or to guess at all. If there is no justice or righteousness to depend on, we are the mere playthings of chance, and we need not concern ourselves about the future state.

Do not for a moment think that an all-seeing and all-knowing God, requires for His knowledge of you or for His estimate of your past or future worth, the credentials of any church, bishop, minister or priest. You are a part of His great plan; you belong in the machinery of His universe as much as they; He will know what next to do with you according to the manner in which you have obeyed His revealed will. And now we come to the crucial question you ask: How are we to know, in the midst of these contending theologians, what that revealed will is?

The answer is simple enough and requires no effort of faith on your part to accept it. Differ as we may about the authority of Scripture or of the Church of Rome, the Church of England or the Church of Anywhere Else, we can not differ as to the authority and potency of our own consciences in plain matters of right and wrong. God has given to every human being an "inward monitor" enabling him to distinguish between wrong and right. That is the simplest kind of a revelation to him of God's will as to his course in life, as simple as everything else in the known handiwork of the Creator. Perhaps it is the only true revelation. There is nothing vague or confusing about it; it needs no interpreter other than one's self. May we not safely believe that conscience is the Rock on which the real church of God is founded and that if every human being stood fast upon that Rock today the world would be nearer the millennium than any minister or priest, any doctrine or creed, has ever been able to bring it? Indeed, would not the millennium be here?

Now why should you, if you are trying to please God, who is above all earthly churches, bother your mind with the unsolvable claims of primacy among religious teachers and establishments? Assuming that God is satisfied that you are serving Him as best you know how, and as the needle of your conscience points, don't you think you can afford to let all church controversies rest? Perhaps, if we were to know some of the hidden things of Providence we should find out that any church of sincere worship or any two or three human beings who may gather in His name, are as near to God as any finite thing can get? If there is another world above and cognizant of this one, and with a sense of humor in it, a smile must irradiate it whenever a church takes its turn in the long procession of them, to proclaim itself the only one which God has endowed with the riches of His grace and confidence. Is there not reason to suspect that these church controversies began to try the patience of God, eons before any of the existing churches were born? We are living in a very old world. Perhaps it is fifty million years or cycles old and has been inhabited by sentient beings all that time. Reasoning man must always have had the sense of the presence of a Supreme Being in the universe and an instinct of self-preservation which led him to the act of worship and that meant churches, each one, of course, with a good conceit of itself. Lost Atlantis, the continent which Plato knew in tradition, may have had its Romes and Londons, its cathedrals and meeting houses. Thousands of the planets of the universe may have them now; and all, in that case, must have been and may be in the throes of theological controversy. How insignificant, in that broad view, do our own "true churches" and wise vicegerents and wrathful controversies appear; how puerile our claims to having God's sole power of attorney. Might not some such conversation as this, in view of that possible sense of humor, occur at the gate of the next world?

"Warden, what was the clamor just now? Another soul demanding to see young Peter?"

"Oh yes, these moderns all think he keeps the gate, though he has not been here long enough to be an altar boy."

"Who was this one?"

"Oh, he was quite a character. He said he was a personal representative of God on his planet—'earth' I think he called it. I couldn't help recalling that man who came in about forty thousand years ago and called himself the Tetaoxil of Makalixamon and wondered why everybody wasn't out to meet him? This one made almost as much trouble. He's quieter now."

We do not mean this to be irreverent, but after all, theological speculations which rest primarily upon the idea that the events of six thousand out of millions of years are final, in the interpretation of the history, meaning and authority of God's plan, are not to be taken too seriously. "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

But do not draw the idea from all this that the churches of our cycle are useless or immature and that it would do no harm to destroy or abandon them. People who want to stay right with God in this world need each other's example and encouragement, perhaps each other's supervision. Sincere churches keep the conscience active and alert or, at least, keep people from forgetting it; and in doing that, and fixing the sense of God's sovereignty in mind they leave the communicant a better and safer man. But, as we said before, do not worry as to which church is the "true" one. Though churches be not necessary to salvation you would do well to select that church which best seems to meet your spiritual need, stand by it, take what it has to give and strengthen it by the wholesome order of your life. For ourselves we would as soon accept the chances of heaven of those who kneel in the streets of Athens to the rude altar inscribed "To the Unknown God," as of those who

bow down when the silver trumpets blow in St. Peter's face and the Lord of Rome raises his benedictory hand, or of those who rise to sing the Dextera in the Puritan meetinghouse. Indeed, among all these sincere worshippers, who shall have precedence or who shall be denied in That Great Day?

INDIA RUBBER IMPORTATIONS.

The popularity of the bicycle and automobile, coupled with the increased use of electricity in the daily affairs of the people, has increased enormously the importation of India rubber. That article shows now a larger value in the import list than almost any other single product. The value of India rubber imported in the crude state in the year just ended will aggregate nearly or quite \$50,000,000, and if to this is added the value of old and scrap rubber intended for remanufacture the total for the calendar year 1906 will considerably exceed \$50,000,000.

The growth in demand for India rubber and the consequent growth in importations—for India rubber is not a product of continental United States—has been more rapid than that of almost any other important article during the past decade. The value of rubber imported in the calendar year 1896 was but \$15,500,000, or less than one-third of the prospective total for the year 1906, thus indicating that the value of rubber imported has increased more than 200 per cent. in a decade.

This increase in the value of India rubber imported is due in part, however, to the advance in price caused by the great increase in demand in various parts of the world, and especially in the United States, which now consumes more than one-half of the rubber crop of the world. The quantity of rubber imported in the first ten months of 1896 was 26,000,000 pounds and the stated value \$11,500,000, making the average value per pound 44½ cents, while the quantity imported in the ten months of the past year, for which the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor has now a record, is 53,500,000 pounds, valued at \$41,666,666.66, or an average of 77 cents per pound. It will be seen from these figures that the average import price of crude rubber has advanced 73 per cent. during the last decade, due chiefly, it may be assumed, to the increased demand for rubber to be used in the manufacture of bicycles, automobiles, and the various appliances required through the greatly increased use of electricity as applied to lighting, transportation, and the manufacturing industries.

These figures of rubber imported include only that coming in the crude state. In addition to this there were brought into the United States during the ten months ending with October more than 18,000,000 pounds of old and scrap rubber for remanufacturing, and 12,500,000 pounds of gutta percha, an article somewhat similar to rubber, which is mixed with India rubber for use in the various industries. In addition to this there was imported 326,053 pounds of gutta percha, which is used chiefly in the manufacture of submarine cables. Brazil is the chief contributor to the India-rubber supply of the United States, the quantity imported from that country in the ten months ending October amounting to 26,750,000 pounds out of a total of 53,500,000, while the United Kingdom contributed 8,500,000, Germany 3,000,000, other European countries 7,000,000, Mexico nearly 3,000,000, Central America a little over 1,000,000, and the East Indies over 2,000,000 pounds. All of the rubber sent from the European countries to the United States is, of course, the product of non-European sections of the world, chiefly colonies of the various countries from which it is sent.

This growing demand for India rubber and the reduction of the natural supply owing to the crude and often reckless manner in which the supplies are gathered from the rubber forests of South America and Africa have resulted in the establishment of rubber plantations in India, Ceylon, the Malayan Peninsula and Java, as well as in Hawaii where they are now only in the growing stage. Experiments made in establishing rubber plantations in Java, the Straits Settlements and Ceylon have been so successful as to justify the belief that the rubber production of the world will, in the not distant future, come largely from cultivated instead of from the natural rubber trees as at present. Indications seem to justify the belief that the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands are capable of producing large quantities of this article.

Data collected by Philippine botanists and collectors show that the climate, soil, and other conditions of the Philippine Islands are favorable to rubber and gutta percha, and Government nurseries have been already established in the islands for the distribution of rubber plants for use of rubber plantations. In Hawaii this new industry is entirely the creature of local enterprise and the cultivation thus far is promising of most satisfactory results.

THE GRAND JURY REPORT.

The retiring police force will not get much comfort from the report of the grand jury, although the latter is more moderate in its tone than the report of the present Board of Supervisors was when that body adopted the severely adverse opinions of its police committee. It is made perfectly clear by the grand jury that the Brown administration is responsible for the failure of the law to close the gambling houses. Gambling, according to the grand jury, "has been openly, extensively and notoriously carried on, apparently with little or no police interference;" and further, "Open public gambling can not exist where the officers of the law do their duty." There is a sting in all this which will make the retiring police, if they are sensitive at all, long remember the closing days of their misused authority.

The grand jury also remarks the continued open violation of the liquor law and suggests remedial legislation. This is a matter which the law-makers will do well to take up, not only as a means of public service but because the late campaign, so far as it touched moral issues, showed that a majority of the voters were to borrow the language of the hustings—as much opposed to "booze" as they were to "buncombe."

There is a news feature in that part of the report which deals with pawn-broking. Not content with the large interest guaranteed the legitimate loaning of money on movable property, certain usurers, with pawnbroker's licenses, have hit upon the plan of buying proffered security outright and giving the seller an option of repurchase at a price which means a profit to the usurer of 150 per cent. It is worth remarking that the grand jury suggests no remedy for this state of things.

It is a gratification to know from the report that various so-called co-operative societies here are to be investigated by the Attorney General. Among the sound recommendations of the grand jury are those of fire escapes for high buildings, a consultative board of physicians for the insane asylum and a prison hospital for criminals afflicted by contagious diseases.

During its term this grand jury has done thorough work for good government, its raid on a gambling house being, among other achievements, a distinct public service. This illustrates the wisdom of the present method of selecting juries as compared with the former system, by which politicians on the bench or in the sheriff's office could control the policy of such bodies by staking their own men in them. It will take this community a long time to forget the packed grand juries of five years ago.

THE LOS ANGELES EXCURSION.

Something useful ought to come of a visit of 300 Los Angeles business men to Honolulu, a trip that is scheduled for February. There are things out this way that Los Angeles, if it is really going to be a port and to bid for a maritime trade, ought to know about. Hawaii has much to sell and much to buy and it is not by any means tied up to San Francisco. But until the business men of Los Angeles and Honolulu get together, not much can be accomplished in the way of opening new markets. Long range correspondence never establishes anything; it is merely a preliminary move.

There is also a tourist phase to the proposed visit that is worth considering. We have never had much faith that Los Angeles would recommend any of its tourists to come here. That is not what it is in the tourist business for. But the permanent population of Southern California, whom these merchants mainly stand for, want a place to visit now and then and it is well to let them know about Hawaii. This Territory ought to be the winter and even the summer playground of the whole Pacific coast. We do not doubt that, if the Los Angeles merchants have a good time, many will plan to come back and bring their families and tell their friends about us.

And say: Why not a return excursion of Honolulu business men to Los Angeles?

MORE LIGHTS WANTED.

Honolulu has steadily grown during the past ten years and indications point to a continuance in the development of outside property, but the lighting of the city has not kept pace with the building. Recently the spirit moved the Board of Supervisors to a point where the committee on street lighting added several lights, to the small number already installed in Manoa valley and College Hills, but they are insufficient for the locality. Other sections of the city are in even worse condition in respect to lights but there is no attention paid to the requirements of the people in this respect. It would be difficult to

find a place on the mainland as important as Honolulu that is not blessed by a better light service. Altogether too much faith is placed in the moon.

The contract with the Electric Light Co. is for lights from 6:30 p. m. to 5:30 a. m., when there is no moonlight; on other nights the electric lamps are not lighted when the moon is due above the horizon and are lighted again about the time she is due to go below the water line in the west. When the man at the Electric Light works is attending to business he shuts off the energy whether or not the sky is so overcast that the moon is out of sight. There are some localities on the Coast that furnish electric lights each night in the month except the three nights nearest to full moon and if Honolulu can not give lights every night the service could be improved by the Supervisors following the lead of their Coast brethren. The government has maintained for years an indifferent electric plant up Nuuanu but it is susceptible of enlargement to a size that would furnish lights for the entire city. At times it might be necessary to use coal but even then it would be supplying the lights at a much less cost than is now paid the corporation. From time to time purchase of the additional equipment has been postponed and the taxpayers have paid, and are continuing to pay, for the delay. One of the best advertisements a city can have, is an abundance of electric lights.

THE NEW OFFICIALS.

Success to the new Board of Supervisors and the new Sheriff! If they deserve it they will get it; and it is wholly within their power to command success.

Plain honesty, industry, a fair education and good sense are the most useful qualities an official can have. One does not need to know Latin or Greek, geometry or psychology or even literature, to be a good public administrator. But he must know that he does not own the money which the public gives him power to disburse but is an agent, trustee or steward for its proper use. He must always keep in mind that the people expect him to do his work expeditiously and well. He needs enough education to know how. If he realizes all these things and is able to rise to the occasion, then we may be sure that he has common sense.

For the first time the Board of Supervisors and the police department of Oahu county are in the hands of native Hawaiians, who are thus put on trial. If they make a good record, it will be of enormous value to them and to the Territory; to them, because it will settle the doubts of those who have feared to vest Hawaiians with large responsibility in this stage of their political and racial development; to the Territory, because it will promote the public credit to have it demonstrated in the money-market that the native voting majority here is "safe and sane."

The trouble in our politics, hitherto, has been the propensity to regard public office, not as a public trust, but as a "private snap." How many Hawaiians and haoles alike, in this community, have been shipwrecked on that proposition. It would pay every one of the newly-inducted officials to study the official history of this group since annexation. What a crowd of promising men went wrong in the early days of the Territory; how many have had to run the gauntlet of the grand jury, some of them going to jail, others into exile or an enforced privacy of life. What a list there is of the branded and besmirched. If there is a single one who has openly cherished the "private snap idea" who remains in office, we do not recall his name. The men in power today in the Territory are there because they have proved their integrity and responsibility; and now the Hawaiians are given a chance to bring County administration up to the same high standard. Surely they have a strong incentive in the thought that they are in office because of the moral uprising which led to the overturn at the polls on the 7th of last November.

And so, with best wishes for their success the Advertiser greets the new officials with the season's compliments.

ROOM FOR ALL.

In what he says about Hawaii the President utters a counsel of perfection rather than propounds a practical remedy for the existing state of things. He says that we should direct our efforts unceasingly to the development of the Hawaiian population along the lines of a community of small freeholders. He does not explain how we are to do away with the rich planters whose huge estates are now filled by coolies. No doubt it would be well for the Hawaiian archipelago if a large middle class of substantial citizens could be evolved there, but the President omits to say how this could be brought about.

—Harper's Weekly.

Harper's Weekly has been represented here, of late, by a vigilant member of its staff who will, we trust, put it right on this question, even at the tragic cost of dislocating a romantic theory with some prosaic facts.

Hawaii, Harper's Weekly should know, is something more than a congeries of sugar estates. It has large amounts of arable land lying above the zone in which sugar may be profitably grown. It is estimated by the Director of the United States Agricultural Experiment Station here that 100,000 farmers might be settled on this outlying land. For their support the soil would yield tobacco, sisal, rubber, pineapples, vanilla, cassava, bananas, coffee and most of the staple products of the temperate zones. By getting a farming class here to do this great work of development Hawaii would not only quadruple its wealth but obtain the substantial middle class without which it can not be safe from grave economic and political ills. No harm could possibly be done to the staple industry by Americanizing the land which is not needed by it, especially since Europe has shown that it may be freely drawn upon for field labor.

INTERNATIONAL COURTESY.

We trust that the United States government is mindful of the courtesy due a visiting naval squadron and will have, on the arrival of the three Japanese training ships here, a force of equal dignity to do the honors. It would mortify Americans in Hawaii to have nothing but the Iroquois in port to greet the distinguished guests.

Admiral Swinburne, commander of the North Pacific squadron, has two armored cruisers now, besides the protected cruiser Chicago, some gunboats and torpedo craft. From this force, a very competent reception committee could be provided—one which would flatter the admiral and officers of the Japanese squadron and at the same time properly represent the flag in its own waters.

The proceedings of the Bar Association in respect to the memory of the late Judge Highton were marked by a high sense of appreciation of his character as a lawyer and a man. Judge Highton was known to the local bench and bar better than he, himself, may have thought. It would have cheered the lonely vigil of his last days to know how clearly the salient points of his nature, as well as of his professional career, had impressed themselves upon his brother lawyers. He was neither misunderstood nor underrated, however much that impression may have been borne upon him by his failure, owing to his advanced years and to the peculiar insular conditions here, to at once occupy that professional relation to great cases which seemed to be his natural right during the prime of his years in California.

Possibly quotations of mining stock are merely representative of the value of the shares to the owners. We have no reports at hand showing the retirement from business of any of the Honolulu men who, a few weeks ago, were reported to have made enough in mines to ease them from business cares for the balance of their lives.

COMMERCIAL CLUB
WILL NOT SPLIT

There is a fair prospect that the breach in the Commercial Club, upon the question of the McCandless building lease, will be healed. A meeting of the club will be held at 4 o'clock this afternoon, at the Merchants' Association rooms, to reconsider the vote of Saturday whereby the lease, on the condition it contains for electric lighting exclusively, was rejected.

ing at an amicable understanding. Members of the club generally realize that it would be most unfortunate if anything happened now which would be liable either to delay the establishment of the club or to diminish its strength. The idea of giving up a location selected after mature consideration is also repugnant.

The Grand jury consists of William W. Harris, foreman; David W. Anderson, Morris J. Bissell, Harry Armitage, Emil A. Berndt, Clarence L. Crabbe, Charles Crozier, Thomas Gandall, James D. McEarny, G. P. Norton, Nathaniel S. Sachs, John H. Stelling, David F. Thrum, Love M. Velleesen, L. de L. Ward, Harry E. Webster and Gerrit P. Wilder.